

# Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

Volume 5  
Number 1

Fall 1999

## Natural Connections--October 15

Mark your calendars! Watch *Natural Connections* on KOMO ABC 4 at 8 p.m. on Friday, October 15. *Natural Connections*, a one-hour television program, takes viewers around the world to witness the world's biodiversity and how our everyday decisions on how we live impact where we live. Guided by experts such as E.O. Wilson, Jerry Franklin, and others, viewers visit Costa Rica, Tatoosh Island off the Olympic Coast, British Columbia's Adams River, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The goal is to help viewers understand

the interconnection of life on our planet and how important our role is in maintaining the delicate balance among species.

## Natural Connections Support Materials for Teachers

Middle and high school teachers wishing to expand and enhance the educational value of the Natural Connections program can take advantage of the different opportunities offered by the King County Solid Waste Division:

### *Natural Connections Teaching Guide*

Pre and post discussion questions, a quiz, activity and project ideas, and resource information appropriate for middle and high school students are provided in the *Natural Connections Teaching Guide*. Copies have been sent to middle and high school teachers. If you have not received one and want a copy, please contact Donna Miscolta at (206) 296-4477, or see <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd>.

### *Classroom Labs*

Beginning October 20, 1999 an interactive classroom lab that reinforces the themes presented in *Natural Connections* will be available to middle and high schools in King County outside of Seattle. The lab enables students to explore current trends and concerns in waste reduction, recycling and human relationships to the environment. Each session lasts from 45 to 55 minutes and is taught in your classroom. To sign up, call Madeline Pilapil at (206) 374-7788 ext.23.

### *Natural Connections Essay Contest*

The Natural Connections Essay Contest is an opportunity for middle and high school students to take a more in-depth look at some of the issues discussed in the program. Essays will be due by February 11, 2000, with winners receiving recognition and prizes on or before Earth Day. For contest materials and details, call Madeline Pilapil at (206) 374-7788 ext.23.

### *Grant \$Money\$*

*So, you want to...*

- Plan a lesson related to the *Natural Connections* television program.
- Take your class on a field trip to a recycling facility.
- Invite an excellent environmental speaker to your classroom.

*But you don't have the resources you need?*

- Teacher mini-grants of up to \$500 are available from the King County Solid Waste Division.
- Also available are student rewards for middle and high school students completing a project related to waste reduction, recycling, resource conservation, or other theme related to *Natural Connections*.

For grant applications or more information, call Donna Miscolta at (206) 296-4477.



King County Solid Waste Division

## Who Put the 'R' in Earth?—

### Better than Ever!

Free to elementary schools in King County outside Seattle, the *Who Put the 'R' in Earth?* live assembly show takes students through a captivating and entertaining series of situations that teach them how waste reduction and recycling conserve natural resources. This year *all-new* half-hour workshops on environmental stewardship and green gardening reinforce messages from the assembly program. These fast-paced, action-oriented work-



shops are offered on a day following the assembly. Teacher materials are included. Information and assistance for school environmental clubs called Green Teams are also available. To register for an assembly, contact René Alexander at Triangle Associates, Inc., phone (206) 583-0655, fax (206) 382-0669, or email: [ralexander@triangleassociates.com](mailto:ralexander@triangleassociates.com).

### Adventures with Zeela!

Professional storyteller Kathie Vitz enchants kindergarten and preschool students with the story of Zeela, an interstellar traveler who journeys from her planet Zergatron to Earth. Zeela is searching for the answer of what to do with too much garbage. Students help Zeela find the answer of how recycling reuses paper waste. After hearing the story, the students act it out. The class will receive a copy of the story and coloring sheets at the end of the program. Also, back by popular demand is *Tikli's Nose*, a story about trolls and reducing waste. Call Kathie Vitz at (206) 789-0754 to schedule one of these free programs in King County schools (outside Seattle).



## Hazards on the Homefront

### Teacher Workshop

A free, one-day workshop introducing the newly revised *Hazards on the Homefront* will be offered November 30, 1999 at the Snoqualmie Valley School District Offices in Snoqualmie. Teachers will receive training on household hazardous waste issues, hands-on practice of lessons and substitute reimbursement. Also included is a copy of all-new lesson plans, handouts and overheads, and a Green Cleaning Kit. Free follow-up classroom presentations are also available as part of the program.

### HHW Refresher Classes

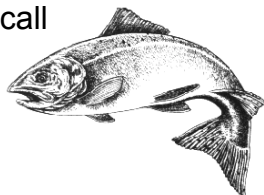
Teachers who have already been trained in *Hazards on the Homefront* are invited to attend a refresher mini workshop on October 30 for grades 4-6 or November 20, 1999 for grades 7-12. Participants will receive the revised teacher guides (now in two volumes) and share their previous experiences. With an easy to use format and enhanced graphics, the revised guides include new activities and labs tailored to the multiple intelligences and the essential learning requirements. Elementary students will enjoy hearing the story of Nellie the Newt and creating attention-grabbing "Designer Labels" for household products while middle and high school students will appreciate the focus on how this issue affects them personally. Teachers who attend the mini workshop will receive a \$65 stipend and all program materials in exchange for sharing their experiences and insights on teaching HHW.

*All teachers* who have completed the *Hazards on the Homefront* Training can apply for grants of up to \$500 to carry out action projects or teach lessons from the curriculum. A brief written report is required at the completion of the project.

To sign up for a program workshop or to get more information about *Hazards on the Homefront*, please contact Jennifer Howell at Triangle Associates, Inc.; (206) 583-0655, fax (206) 382-0669; email: [jhowell@triangleassociates.com](mailto:jhowell@triangleassociates.com) or see <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/schoolpr/hhw/hhw.htm>.

### October is Salmon Month!

King County is sponsoring events throughout the month. For more information, call 1-877-SALMON-9 or visit the Salmon Information Website: [www.salmon.gen.wa.us](http://www.salmon.gen.wa.us)



## Check Out These Websites!

### For Kids—

For a smorgasbord of information, games and interactive learning opportunities in the areas of solid waste and recycling, wildlife and habitat, hazardous waste, and watersheds and water quality, check out the Department of Natural Resources Kids Page at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnr/kidsweb>. The website, designed for children in grades 4-8, teaches children ways to reduce their impact on the environment and have fun doing it! Kids can “surf” any of the topic areas and do things like “take the salmon challenge,” “put waste in its place,” and learn how to reduce the amount of hazardous waste created in their homes.

### For Teachers—

Find updated hazardous waste resource information in the teacher section of the King County website at <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers>. Some of the latest updates include young adult literature and new videos on hazardous waste. Also, the pest control section of the household hazardous waste website has a new look and is easier to navigate. Pull-down menus let you search lists of both pests and pest control methods. Information on crane flies and a link to the recently released fact sheet on pesticides and streams are also included. Visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/house>.

## Free Assistance for Your Lab

Need help cleaning out unwanted or unused chemicals from your school's lab? Don't have the \$3,000 to \$10,000 needed to safely dispose of these stockpiled hazardous chemicals? Want ideas for chemistry labs that don't pollute? The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's Rehab the Lab project can help!

Expert LHWMP staff will conduct a site visit to your school to help inventory chemicals and decide on storage and disposal options. The program underwrites the costs for lab



chemical disposal. Field staff investigators also work with the school to develop a long-term chemical management plan.

To help teachers reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in their classroom and school, the LHWMP has created a free set of the most popular labs taught in high school chemistry classes, and revised them to include improved microscale techniques and substituted least-toxic chemicals for hazardous ones. The experiments were written and reviewed by high school chemistry teachers in King County. Each experiment includes both a teacher and student edition. Adopting even one lab will help greatly! Also available are teacher workshops about household hazardous waste.

Interested schools/science departments should contact Dave Waddell as soon as possible, (206) 263-3069 or [dave.waddell@metrokc.gov](mailto:dave.waddell@metrokc.gov). Please note that this program is available for a limited time only.

## Newspapers in Education (NIE)

The Seattle Times Company Newspapers in Education (NIE) Program provides classroom sets of newspapers and newspaper-based curricula to teachers throughout King County. The program offers more than 70 newspaper-based curricula and the most popular ones are matched to the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements. Schools can raise up to \$500 per quarter to fund this program by recycling newspapers. Fibres International will supply your school with a metal newspaper recycling container and do all the work. Your school's NIE account will be automatically credited each quarter and you will be advised of how much is in your account. The container is regularly serviced and there is no charge or fee for anything. Fibres will create a customized flyer to help you promote your program. Space required for the container is about 1/3 of a parking space and must be accessible to the collection truck. Newspaper recycling is a simple, low maintenance fundraising program. For more information about recycling newspapers, contact Patty Schwegman at (425) 455-9811 ext. or email her at [pattys@fibres.net](mailto:pattys@fibres.net). For more information about the NIE program, call (206) 652-6290, send email to [nie@seattimes.com](mailto:nie@seattimes.com) or fax (206) 515-5615.



## Car Wash Fundraisers and Clean Water

If you're washing multiple cars at a car wash fundraiser, contact Bob Spencer at (206) 296-1951 and check out one of his FREE Car Wash Kits. Wash water is kept out of the storm drain system through a simple arrangement that allows the dirty water to be captured and pumped to the sanitary sewer for treatment. Another alternative is to coordinate with the Puget Sound Car Wash Association. Instead of washing cars in parking lots, organizations can purchase carwash tickets for \$3 from the association and resell them for \$6. The tickets are redeemable at over 50 Puget Sound car wash locations. For more information, call (800) 509-9274.

## Wild Seed Fund Grants

The National Wildlife Federation's WILD SEED FUND grants are now available for the 1999-2000 school year. A limited number of grants will be awarded to qualifying K-12 schools in Oregon, Washington and Idaho on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested schools must demonstrate that they are working to enhance, restore or develop a wildlife habitat site on school grounds that will be integrated into existing curriculum and is sustainable beyond the life of the grant. Schools receiving grants must certify their site with NWF's Schoolyard Habitats project. The use of native plants is strongly encouraged. For more information or to receive a grant application, schools can contact Beth Stout at [stout@nwf.org](mailto:stout@nwf.org) or at (503) 230-0421.



Natural Connections airs on **KOMO<sup>abc</sup> 4** October 15th at 8 PM

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